

# WHEN THIS KING DIES, LOOK OUT— AND HE'S SICK.

Menelik of Abyssinia, the Most Democratic of All Monarchs, Is Seriously Ill, Say Dispatches From the Capital of His Empire to Rome, and, If He Should Die, An Outbreak Menacing the Safety of European Representatives Would Likely Be Followed by a Fierce Scramble Among the Powers For His Rich Domain.

FROM out of the East come the tidings that "Lion Conqueror of the tribe of Judah, Menelik, Chosen of God, King of the Kings of Ethiopia," as he styles himself, lies seriously ill.

Like vultures peering from the treetops, the nations of Europe are regarding this sick lion. But that is not all. Should Menelik die, which is not at all unlikely, according to dispatches from Addis-Abeba, the capital of Abyssinia, to Rome, grave disturbances are promised in the struggle for succession.

Meanwhile, anxiety is being felt for the safety of the European representatives in Addis-Abeba, in case an outbreak should immediately follow the Chosen One's death.

Reports on the probable succession differ. Deputy Martini, governor of Erythrea, now in Rome, and who recently visited the Abyssinian capital, says that the heir is a boy, ten years old, called Jisu, a son of Menelik's daughter, Princess Outzera, Zeodita. The Almannah to Gotha, however, in giving particulars about the princess, who was first married to Ras Aera Selassie, who died in 1888 and in 1901 chose Ras Gougas, governor of Beghemder, for a husband, does not mention any children.

Ras Makonnen, the most notable subject of King Menelik, his cousin as well as confidential representative, was at one time deemed the King's probable successor, but he died last March.

## Situation Affects Treaty.

The situation arising from Menelik's illness, has made more difficult the acceptance and enforcement of the Anglo-Italian convention, concluded with Abyssinia, in London, last summer, the ratification of which Menelik continually postponed. The main clauses of this treaty guarantee the integrity of the Abyssinian empire, the open door and commercial equality for all countries and provide for the continuation of the construction, by the French, of the railway connecting Addis-Abeba with the coast. Great Britain and Italy naming representatives in the railway directorate.

Last January the German government sent to the reichstag a commercial treaty, giving Germany the most favored nation treatment for ten years, and granting the subjects of the two states full freedom of travel and trade in either state. The Abyssinian courts will not have jurisdiction over German subjects.

The interest of the United States in the situation is keen—probably greater than those of all other powers combined. And this is due entirely to the efforts of individual traders, for the Government has no representative, either diplomatic or commercial, in this empire of 10,000,000 people. For a long time, the Abyssinians have been buying direct from the United States cotton and staple products. Robert P. Skinner, the United States consul general at Marselles, went to Abyssinia on a special mission, late in 1900, and returned early in 1904, after concluding a commercial treaty between the United States and Germany.

When Mr. Skinner went to Addis-Abeba, in addition to an elaborate invitation to the World's Fair, engraved on silver, he presented to Menelik a letter from President Roosevelt, in the latter's own handwriting.

## Menelik's Personality.

It is hard to associate King Menelik with sickness. This swarthy monarch, who, in driving the invading Italians from his country, became the only black ruler who ever gained a decisive and lasting victory over a white nation, is distinctly African in physiognomy. He is very tall and broad, and, until his illness, was noted for his strength. He is about sixty-four years old; is fond of wearing an American broad-brimmed hat, dresses in loose garments, and when in the house always has a large kerchief wrapped about his head. The King's state garb is made of a black leopard's skin and the skin of a black-maned lion.

Menelik is the most democratic of kings. Being the son of a beggar maid whom his father raised to the throne, the King does not hold himself aloof from his people. He often works side by side with the common people at manual labor, teaching them the use of modern implements and machinery. He is popular with his subjects and it is said that chiefs in the most remote part of his domain are eager to carry out his commands. He is much interested in modern mechanical devices; has a telegraph and telephone service and spends hours listening to a phonograph. He mints his own money and commands a splendidly disciplined army of 180,000 men, equipped with the best guns and other fighting devices.

## Always Keeps His Word.

Menelik is respected by foreign countries because he never fails to keep his word. He is well informed and has marked executive ability. He knows how to handle people and is an able diplomat. Europeans regard as a great joke his solemn assertion that he is directly descended from the great King Solomon, Judea's wisest ruler.

Menelik is a staunch admirer of President Roosevelt. He had hardly heard of the strenuous President of the United States until he introduced into his palace a young American girl of musical talent who was his official piano player. The young woman was a Roosevelt enthusiast and told the King something about the President's vigorous personality. The dusky Emperor was deeply interested. He called for more and his American piano player sent for a biography of Roosevelt. Menelik was much absorbed over the physical activities of the President as told in the book and caused translations of the work to be published and circulated among his subjects.

Especially pleasing to the Chosen One was Roosevelt's personal participation in the battle of San Juan Hill. This appealed to the Abyssinian ruler, for, in a fierce battle at Adowa a few years ago, where the Abyssinians utterly routed a large army of Italians, killing 10,000 men, King Menelik himself rushed into the conflict near its close, brandishing a big sword and killing a number of the enemy with his own blade. In fact, while other rulers of realms in the dark continent have been subdued by the European powers and their domains annexed as colonies or dependencies, the supremacy of the Caucasian blood and civilization have not availed in the case of Menelik and his Abyssinia.

## Defeated Rhodes' Project.

It was Menelik whose huge form loomed up in the pathway of late Cecil Rhodes and defeated his cherished "Cape to Cairo" dream.

Yet there is a softer side to this chieftain. There has been a romance in his life. His wife, Taoti, is said to be the power behind the throne. While King Menelik's easy rule over the feudal district kings and chiefs is commonly attributed to his quick mind and ordinarily mild and conciliatory disposition, supported by occasional severity, his wife is said to be the actuating cause.

In his early youth, Menelik journeyed to Gondar, where he first met the beautiful young princess, Taoti. He wooed her ardently, and she consented to become his wife. When the princess visited the Court of Theodoros, Emperor of Abyssinia at that time, Theodoros was smitten by the princess' charms and married her himself, considerably giving to Menelik his own daughter, as a sort of peace offering.

But Menelik never ceased loving Taoti. One day Theodoros, harassed by his enemies, took his own life. At least that was the report. Anyway, he died. He was succeeded on the throne by John, whose son, Ras Manne died. He was succeeded on the Italo-Abyssinian war over Hassoah. Taoti married four other men in succession, but these proved unhappy unions.



Judah two fine lion cubs?" asked the Abyssinian monarch of Mr. Skinner.

## Offers Lions to Roosevelt.

The representative of the great world's fair declared himself much impressed by the generosity of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and said he knew of no tokens of esteem that would be so grateful to President Roosevelt as a brace of Abyssinian lions. Menelik waved the thought away as a mere bagatelle, and said he would send, not only a brace of live lions, but a laughing hyena and a pair of priceless elephant tusks as well, to the great ruler across the Atlantic.

It was due to this exchange of airy perflage between Menelik and Skinner that the two cubs and the hyena were crated and shipped to Washington. For weeks after they heard about it Archie and Quentin Roosevelt were on pins and needles awaiting the arrival of the Abyssinian lions. Live stock of all kinds had rolled up to the white House in express wagons since they had come there to live with their father, but the limit was raised when the lions were announced.

Finally the time came for them to land in New York, which they did, or rather one of them did, on March, 1904. One of the cubs failed to stand the sea voyage, and succumbed to mal de mer when half way across the ocean. Two men from the Zoo were sent over

to New York to meet the Abyssinian immigrants, and they found the visitors in a sad plight.

## Crippled Lot of Gifts.

The surviving cub was weak in the knees and much dispirited by internal disturbances. He had neither a play nor a purr left in him. The laughing hyena was wobbly, too, and the best he could do to bear out his reputation as a dispenser of broad and audible smiles was a very sickly grin that could be seen, but not heard. The elephant tusks were the only part of the cargo that reached American shores intact.

As soon as they could stand the railroad journey, the remaining cub and hyena were brought onto Washington and taken direct to the White House for inspection. They were allowed to remain there for a few days while the Roosevelt children and their friends studied them at close range. A full-grown hyena is not a pleasant pet to have around a house, and a lion cub is little better. Therefore, they were shipped out to the Zoo before the children got tired of looking at them.

Soon after he was settled in his new home the hyena picked up, and in a little while hearty laughs were frequently heard from his section, particularly around feeding time. He is still well and happy. Not so, however, with the poor little lion. He was given pri-

vate apartments from the first, and kept quiet while the Zoo doctors worked on him. On the way across the Atlantic, the cub was badly bruised, and, as he showed no improvement after several months, the doctors made a thorough examination, coming to the conclusion that he had been seriously injured.

## Lion Is Chloroformed.

At last, when he had been at the Zoo for more than two years, and was still sickly, it was decided that the best thing to do was to put the poor brute out of his misery. Early in November this was done. A good dose of chloroform turned the trick, and Menelik's lion is no more. The hyena and the elephant tusks still survive, however. The latter decorate the walls of the National Museum.

brother of Frank R. Loomis, then Assistant Secretary of State. On the way over young Loomis, who was carrying dispatches to Menelik, disappeared from the ship. Ellis was held by the English authorities, but was afterward released. Loomis' body washed up on the west coast of England two weeks afterward. Ellis continued his trip to Abyssinia, carrying the dispatches. Soon after he returned to this country, an Abyssinian, a merchant prince, so it was claimed, turned up in Washington. His name was Hadji Abdullah Ali Sadick.

## Merchant Prince a "Frost."

He was a giant in stature, and jet black as to his complexion. He spoke no word of English, but was accompanied by an interpreter. But for a bright red fez, there was nothing about his conventional attire to distinguish him from an Afro-American. Somehow or other he did not hit it off well at the State Department. He had been heralded as a special ambassador from Emperor Menelik, but examination of his papers proved that he was a private citizen, a rich merchant, who bore a letter from Menelik which declared, in general terms, that the bearer was a good sport and entitled to a look-in.

The credentials read, in part, as follows: "The lion of the tribe of Judah has conquered; Menelik I, chosen of the Lord, King of kings of Ethiopia; Hadji Abdullah Ali Sadick, having been overseer of merchants, we have ordered him to proceed to a commercial inquiry to acquaint himself with and to see the various classes of merchandise offered in all countries; we have at the same time sent him to purchase merchandise which he may believe to be useful to us, and to bring them to us."

"We have the hope that thou wilt aid him with all thy power to bring to a happy end the affairs with which we have charged him, and that thou wilt do what may be necessary to facilitate his return."

## Hadji's Museum Tour.

Consul General Skinner also sent a letter asking that the commercial museums of the country give Hadji Abdullah a chance to see their collections, and described the visitor as the first semi-official representative Abyssinia had ever sent to America.

Abdul lay around Washington for a week or so, and then moved on. He saw a few museums in Philadelphia and New York, and then went home. It is believed that his impressions of America were not of the best. It is not on record that he bought anything. If Menelik lives the chances are that before a great while he will have a regularly accredited representative at Washington, as Americans are now fully awake to the value of commerce in Abyssinia.

## Praises Mrs. Parsons' Book For Thoughts on Marriage

STIRRED by the discussion and review of Mrs. Elsie Clews Parsons' book, "The Family," in the issue of The Sunday Times of November 25, a Washingtonian who sees much common sense in the authoress' views on marriage has sent to this paper the following communication:

Editor Times:  
One of my neighbors in Mansfield, Ohio, in the eighties was George M. Endly. He was a fellow-student and graduate from the same college with James G. Blaine. At the time I refer to he was a bookseller and news-dealer.

He related to me this incident. Said he:

"In 1880 there came into my store a strange man, bright, nervous, and eccentric. Leaning over my counter and peering intently into my face he uttered these remarkable words: 'Do you know, sir, that I haven't any respect for my father and mother?'"

"I know nothing on the subject, for the reason that you are an entire stranger to me. Why haven't you any respect for them?' I asked him. 'I'll tell you,' he said. 'My father and mother were incompatible and I am a child of lust. I am playing the penalty for their ill-paired match. I ought never to have been born. How can I have respect for such parents? These were the words in the summer of 1880, of a man who on July 2, 1881, in the city of Washington assassinated the then President of the United States, James A. Garfield, and was finally executed for his deed.'"

If George M. Endly's testimony had been given before the jury that tried and convicted the assassin, it might not and probably would not have resulted in the acquittal of the criminal prisoner; but it would have intensified the conviction of the public that the fiendish deed was the act of a crazy man. While it would not have saved the assassin from the gallows, it would have mollified the harshness of the popular sentiment which clamored for a victim and would be satisfied with nothing less than such a sacrifice. It might have raised the inquiry more distinctly whether the deed was not the result of inherited conditions over which the victim had no control—conditions which irresistibly impelled him to perform the deed. It would have called attention more forcibly to the scientific fact that heredity transmits strong predispositions for which no sort of allowance is made by the unthinking masses.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes was scientifically wise and educationally philosophical when, asked at what period the education of a child should begin, he replied: "A hundred years before it is born." Prenatal impressions

are not only the strong ones, but the enduring ones. This thought was involved in that wisest and most thoroughly pedagogical of all the maxims of Solomon: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

I have listened to sermons by Roman Catholic and Protestant ministers for more than fifty years, and yet in all that time I have never heard a discourse upon the all-important subject of marriage, the foundation of all society and happiness upon earth.

Why is this?

Why should an institution as old as the race and fraught with the importance that attaches to such an appointment be so utterly ignored? Why do ministers never think of the matter, except when some liberal fee, or some rich entertainment is involved? Why are so deeply concerned in divorce legislation when divorces are, as a rule, the legitimate outgrowth of abnormal and preventable marriages? Why such a hubbub in the pulpit and in the press because an intelligent and fearless woman, Mrs. Elsie Clews Parsons, has published a book which, in happily chosen phrases, calls attention to some of the conditions attended to by Guttean, the assassin; Dr. Holmes, King Solomon, and other prominent characters?

I have not read "The Family," written by Mrs. Parsons, but I have read some of the criticisms by preachers and extracts from the book in a recent issue of The Washington Times. Here are some of my conclusions:

1. While I do not indorse all the positions taken in that part of the book, I have read, I am thankful that Mrs. Parsons has written it, and that The Times gave a fair review of it.

2. I am thankful that the pulpit has taken such an active part in advertising the book by criticisms which reflect upon their own neglect to instruct the public upon the subject of marriage. It has illustrated the truth uttered by Herbert Spencer, that every reformer has to pass through three successive stages—indifference, violent opposition, finally adoption. This important reform is passing from the first into the second stage.

3. Mrs. Parsons and all other reformers may derive merited consolation from the declaration by the author of Ecco Homo, to the effect that reformers are persecuted during their lifetime but idolized later by the descendants of the persecutors.

Jesus was persecuted and crucified nearly twenty centuries ago, for proclaiming what we believe to have been the truth. If he were on earth today, in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia or Washington, he would be tried for heresy by some of his professed followers. Let this proposition be controverted and call it the proof.

J. FRAISE RICHARD.  
Washington, December 14, 1906.